

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MBFR V 00228 140027Z

ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 EUR-12 H-01 INR-07

IO-13 L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05 /089 W

-----141136Z 117095 /10

R 131647Z MAY 77

FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2131

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO ALL MBFR MISSIONS

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA

AMEMBASSY ANKARA BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK BY POUCH

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0228

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJ: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: SUMMARY REPORT FOR PERIOD MAY 9-16

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. IN A STATEMENT DELIVERED AT THE FIRST
PLENARY MEETING OF THE TWELFTH ROUND OF THE VIENNA FORCE
REDUCTIONS NEGOTIATIONS, GDR REP CITED EASTERN READINESS TO
EXCHANGE ON A RECIPROCAL BASIS SEPARATE MILITARY MANPOWER DATA
FOR EACH DIRECT PARTICIPANT. HE SAID SUCH A STEP WOULD MAKE IT

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 MBFR V 00228 140027Z

EASIER FOR WESTERN PARTICIPANTS TO CORRECT THEIR ERRONEOUS
ASSUMPTIONS REGARDING THE EXISTENCE OF SUBSTANTIAL MANPOWER
DISPARITIES FAVORING WARSAW PACT FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE.
GDR REP MADE THE SAME POINTS AT A POST-PLENARY PRESS CONFERENCE.
END SUMMARY

2. THE TWELFTH ROUND OF THE VIENNA FORCE REDUCTION

NEGOTIATIONS BEGAN THE WEEK OF MAY 9. THE FIRST PLENARY MEETING OF THE NEW ROUND TOOK PLACE ON MAY 12. NETHERLANDS REP DEVOS AND GDR REP OESER DELIVERED STATEMENTS.

3. IN HIS PLENARY PRESENTATION, GDR REP RELIED ON STANDARD ARGUMENTS IN URGING ADOPTION OF THE EASTERN APPROACH TO REDUCTIONS BY UNITS AND EQUAL PERCENTAGES AND INVOLVING ALL FORCE ELEMENTS-- GROUND, AIR AND NUCLEAR - AND EQUIVALENT OBLIGATIONS ON THE PART OF ALL DIRECT PARTICIPANTS. GDR REP SUGGESTED THAT THE REFUSAL OF WESTERN PARTICIPANTS TO ACCEPT THE EASTERN PROPOSAL THAT ALL DIRECT PARTICIPANTS AGREE NOT TO INCREASE THE NUMERICAL STRENGTH OF THEIR ARMED FORCES IN THE AREA OF REDUCTIONS FOR THE DURATION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS WAS DUE TO THE DESIRE OF THE FORMER TO INCREASE FURTHER THEIR FORCES. HE APPEARED TO REVIVE A PROPOSAL ADVANCED BY THE EAST IN THE TENTH ROUND IN CALLING UPON WESTERN PARTICIPANTS TO COOPERATE IN THE CURRENT ROUND IN WORKING OUT POINTS OF AGREEMENT. GDR REP STRESSED THAT OFFICIAL DATA ALREADY ON THE TABLE SHOWED TO BE UNFOUNDED WESTERN ASSERTIONS OF SUBSTANTIAL MILITARY MANPOWER DISPARITIES FAVORING WARSAW PACT FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE. IN A LOW KEY REFERENCE TO THE EASTERN PROPOSAL THAT NATIONAL MANPOWER DATA BE EXCHANGED RECIPROCALLY FOR EACH DIRECT PARTICIPANT, GDR REP SAID THAT SUCH A STEP WOULD MAKE IT EASIER FOR WESTERN PARTICIPANTS TO CORRECT THEIR ERRONEOUS ASSUMPTIONS AS REGARDS THE EXISTENCE OF SUCH DISPARITIES.

4. IN HIS PREPARED STATEMENT DELIVERED AT A POST-PLENARY PRESS CONFERENCE, GDR REP REFERRED ALONG SIMILAR LINES TO THE EASTERN PROPOSAL THAT NATIONAL MANPOWER DATA BE SUBMITTED FOR EACH
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 MBFR V 00228 140027Z

DIRECT PARTICIPANT. IN RESPONSE TO A SUBSEQUENT QUESTION, OESER STATED THAT THE WEST WAS NOT PREPARED TO TABLE NATIONAL TOTALS.

5. THE PLENARY STATEMENT MADE BY NETHERLANDS REP REVIEWED THE WESTERN CASE FOR PLACING THE FOCUS OF REDUCTIONS AND LIMITATIONS ON GROUND FORCES. HE UNDERScoreD THE FLEXIBILITY WHICH WESTERN PARTICIPANTS HAD MANIFESTED IN MAKING THEIR PROPOSALS OF DECEMBER 1975. NETHERLANDS REP URGED EASTERN PARTICIPANTS TO ACKNOWLEDGE AT LAST THAT THOSE PROPOSALS PROVIDED AN EQUITABLE BASIS FOR ACHIEVING A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE AGREEMENT.

6. IN CONSIDERING INITIAL ALLIED TACTICS FOR THE NEW ROUND, THE AD HOC GROUP AGREED THAT THE MOST URGENT REQUIREMENT WAS TO CONTINUE TO PURSUE ALLIED EFFORTS TO IDENTIFY THE SOURCES OF THE LARGE DISCREPANCY BETWEEN FIGURES SUBMITTED BY THE EAST FOR THE MILITARY MANPOWER OF WARSAW PACT FORCES IN THE AREA OF REDUCTIONS AND THE NATO ESTIMATES OF THOSE FORCES. IN THIS REGARD, THERE WAS FURTHER AGREEMENT

THAT A BREAKDOWN IN SOME FORM OF THE OVERALL FIGURES ALREADY
INTRODUCED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE NECESSARY TO DEVELOP
FURTHER NUMERICAL DATA FROM THE EAST FOR COMPARISON WITH NATO
ESTIMATES. THE GROUP CONCLUDED THAT IT WAS, THEREFORE, IMPORTANT
TO RECEIVE EARLY GUIDANCE FROM NATO ON THE NEXT STEPS TO BE
TAKEN BY WESTERN REPRESENTATIVES IN VIENNA IN THE DISCUSSION
WITH THE EAST OF COUNTING RULES AND DATA.RESOR

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